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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/116 O, 44/117 B of 15 December 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990 and 46/36 F of 6 December 1991,

Considering that the regional approach to disarmament is one of the most important means by which States can contribute to the strengthening of international security, arms limitation and disarmament,

Recognizing that the regional and global approaches complement each other and can be pursued simultaneously in the promotion of regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that disarmament can be carried out only in a climate of confidence based on mutual respect and aimed at ensuring better relations founded on justice, solidarity and cooperation,

Noting that the consumption of resources for potentially destructive purposes is in stark contrast to the need for social and economic development

and that reduction in military expenditure following, inter alia, the conclusion of regional disarmament agreements could entail benefits in both the social and economic fields,

Considering that regional disarmament measures should be aimed at establishing a military balance at the lowest level while not diminishing the security of each State and at eliminating as a matter of priority the capability for large-scale offensive action and surprise attacks,

Noting also that disarmament measures in one region should not lead to increased arms transfers to other regions or extend the military imbalances and/or tensions from one area to other areas,

Considering also that confidence-building and transparency measures are essential elements in the implementation of regional disarmament,

Persuaded that verification measures are important to ensure compliance with regional agreements on arms control and disarmament,

1. Reaffirms that the regional approach to disarmament is one of the essential elements in the global efforts to strengthen international peace and security, arms limitation and disarmament;

2. Is convinced of the importance and effectiveness of regional disarmament measures taken at the initiative of States of the region and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to the security and stability of all States, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with international law and existing treaties;

3. Affirms that comprehensive political and peaceful settlement of regional conflicts and disputes can contribute to the reduction of tension and the promotion of regional peace, security and stability as well as of arms limitation and disarmament;

4. Stresses the importance of confidence-building measures, including objective information on military matters, in ensuring the success of this process;

5. Affirms also that multifaceted cooperation among States in the region, especially encompassing political, economic, social and cultural fields, can be conducive to the strengthening of regional security and stability;

6. Notes with satisfaction the important progress made in various regions of the world through the adoption of arms limitation, peace, security and cooperation agreements, including those related to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, and encourages States in the regions concerned to continue implementing these agreements;

7. Recognizes the useful role played by the regional centres of the United Nations;

8. Encourages States of the same region to examine the possibility of creating, on their own initiative, regional mechanisms and/or institutions for the establishment of measures in the framework of an effort of regional disarmament or for the prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict with the assistance, if requested, of the United Nations;

9. Believes that regional initiatives should enjoy the support of all States of the region concerned and the respect of those outside that region;

10. Invites and encourages all States to conclude, whenever possible, agreements on arms limitation and confidence-building measures at the regional level, including those conducive to avoiding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.